

House File 538 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 538

BY MOMMSEN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the child abuse hotline.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES — CHILD ABUSE
2 HOTLINE.

3 1. The department of human services shall adopt rules
4 pursuant to chapter 17A to utilize an audio script for the
5 child abuse hotline which shall be in substantially the
6 following form:

7 The primary mission at the department of human services is
8 to protect children, improve child and family well-being, and
9 support and preserve families. You are protected by law from
10 any liability from making a report in good faith, but please
11 be aware it is against the law to intentionally make a false
12 report of child abuse or neglect. If you suspect that a child
13 is being abused, neglected, or is in danger of abuse, please
14 stay on the line and your call will be answered by the next
15 available social worker. All calls will be recorded and are
16 kept confidential.

2. The department of human services shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A to develop a policy concerning the child abuse hotline requiring an intake worker receiving a report of suspected child abuse to read a written narrative of the reporter's statements back to the reporter prior to the conclusion of the call.

23 EXPLANATION

24 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
25 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

26 This bill directs the department of human services to
27 adopt rules to utilize an audio script for the child abuse
28 hotline that includes immunity and confidentiality information
29 for callers, and to develop a policy concerning the child
30 abuse hotline requiring an intake worker receiving a report
31 of suspected child abuse to read a written narrative of the
32 reporter's statements back to the reporter.